AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A method of determining the connectivity of switches in a computer network, each switch including a plurality of ports for connection to other switches and network elements, comprising:

   determining all the possible port pairings;

   determining a score for each port pairing; and

   selecting the port pairing having the highest score.

2 (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the score for each port is determined by determining how well the pairing conforms to a set of given properties.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said steps are performed by a computer in the network.

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein selecting the port pairing having the highest score includes determining ~~an upper~~ a threshold ~~and a lower threshold~~, and discarding scores below the ~~lower~~ threshold.

6. (canceled)

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